

PUBLIC HEARING

AgeSmart Community Resources will be holding virtual **Public Hearings** on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, to share the Area Plan on Aging for FY2027.

Older adults, caregivers, community members, and organizations interested in learning more about aging services, are encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity for you to help us identify gaps in services and make recommendations for future possibilities. Make your voices heard!

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM CST

11:00 AM CST

Visit www.AgeSmart.org to register.

Written or E-Mail Public Hearing comments will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. April 15, 2026. Send to:

AgeSmart Community Resources

7 Bronze Pointe South, Suite B

Swansea, IL 62226

E-Mail: ask@agesmart.org

Purpose of the Public Hearing and the Public Information Document

AgeSmart Community Resources (AgeSmart) is conducting public hearings on the FY2027 Area Plan on Aging for the three-year cycle FY2025-2027. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the public hearings to discuss and make comments on the Area Plan on Aging.

The Area Plan on Aging is a planning, management, and grant award document. The full Area Plan format is prepared by the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA). The Area Plan may be fine-tuned or even redesigned during the year as activities and funding dictate. Some proposed activities might be reconsidered after research and feedback during the planning stages. AgeSmart submits amendments to the Area Plan each year in the format required by IDOA.

This Public Information Document is the official summary of the proposed Area Plan for FY2027 beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027. The document is available on www.AgeSmart.org. All activities are subject to available funding.

The Public Information Document is for the reader to use as a tool to stimulate comments and questions at the Public Hearings. (See above for the date and time.) Comments must be written and presented orally at the Public Hearings or in written or e-mail form and delivered to AgeSmart no later than 4:00 p.m. on April 15, 2026. Copies are available at the AgeSmart office.

What's Inside...

Assessment

Initiatives

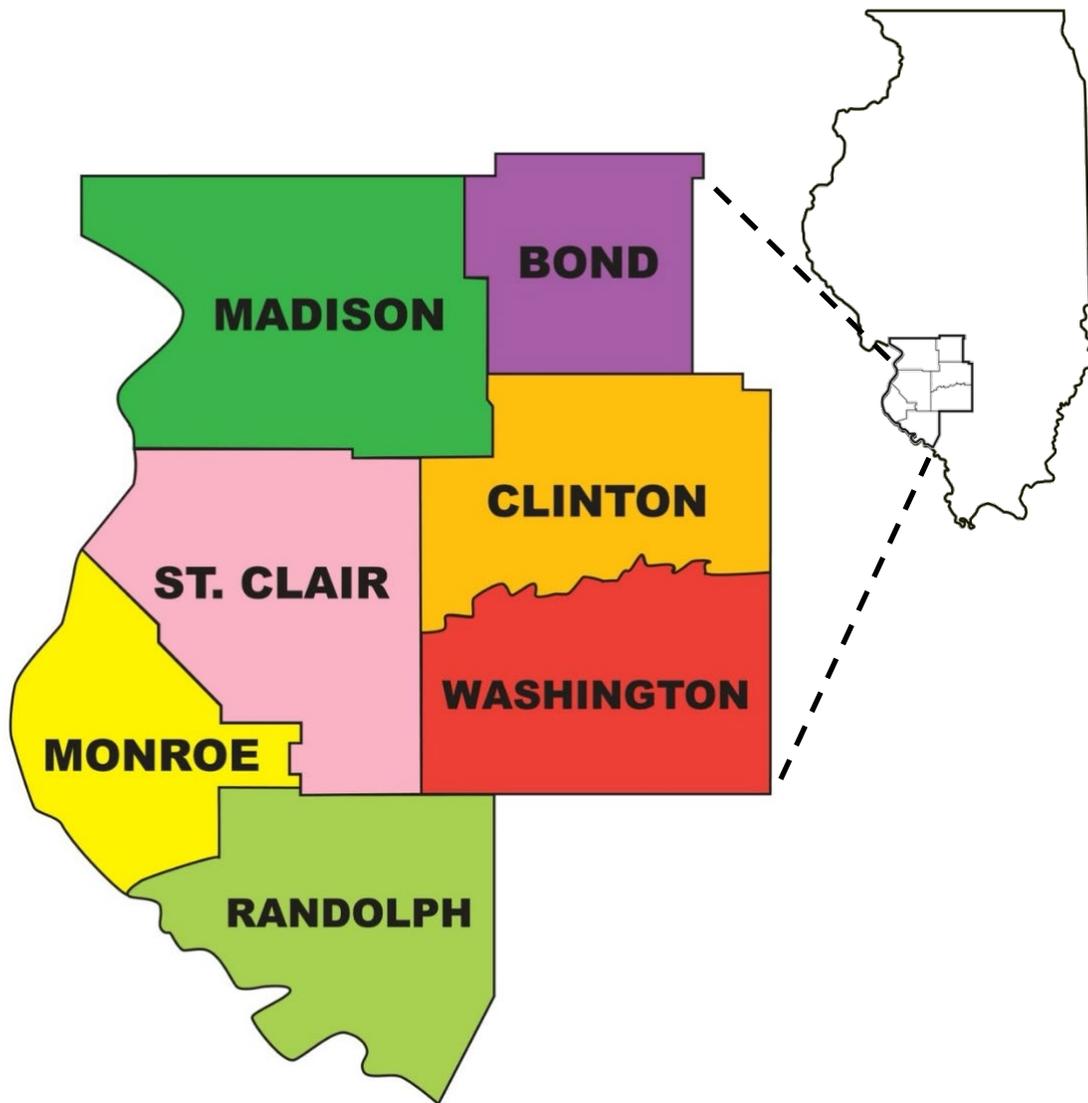
Services Priorities

Administration

Home Delivered Meals

Revenues/Expenses

Planning and Service Area (PSA) 08



In accordance with the Federal Older Americans Act regulations, the Illinois Department on Aging has divided Illinois into 13 Planning and Service Areas. The 13 Planning and Service Areas in Illinois are each managed and served by an Area Agency on Aging. AgeSmart is a nonprofit organization serving the seven counties in Southwestern Illinois highlighted above.

The Aging Network

In 1965, Congress enacted the Older Americans Act (OAA) in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The Act created an interconnected structure of agencies and services known as the National Aging Network.

Administration for Community Living (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)



Provides national leadership on aging issues. Recommends policy, develops regulations to implement the OAA, allocates and administers the OAA budget, and disseminates grants for research, training, and model projects.

State Units on Aging (Illinois Department on Aging)



Serves as the state governmental agency for aging issues. Administers, designs, and advocates for benefits, programs, and services for older persons and their caregivers. Also designates Area Agencies on Aging within the state.

Area Agencies on Aging (AgeSmart Community Resources)



Planning agency at the local level. Responsible for advocacy on behalf of older persons, planning and service development, and administration of a wide variety of funds for community-based services.

Our Mission

AgeSmart Community Resources enhances the lives of older adults, persons with disabilities, and veterans through advocacy, action, and answers on aging.

Who We Are

AgeSmart is an **independent non-profit** organization and is one of over 600 Area Agencies on Aging across the country authorized by the Amended Federal Older Americans Act (OAA) to plan and administer services to persons aged 60 and older, their caregivers, and grandparents/older relatives raising grandchildren. AgeSmart is one of 13 Area Agencies in Illinois authorized by the Illinois Act on Aging and designated by the Illinois Department on Aging.

AgeSmart plans, coordinates, and acts as an advocate for the development of a comprehensive service delivery system for over 166,000 individuals aged 60 and older in Planning and Service Area 08 (PSA). The PSA is comprised of two high-density counties (Madison and St. Clair) and five low-density* counties (Bond, Clinton, Monroe, Randolph, and Washington), two of which are rural ** (Randolph and Washington).

* Low Density: Community with population under 5,000
 ** Rural: Areas outside of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)

FY26 Board of Directors

A nine-member Board of Directors governs AgeSmart chaired by Tim Eckels of Madison County, IL. The Board sets policy and makes decisions about programs and funding distribution. Over 60% of the Board members are over the age of 60.

- Janice Albers..... Clinton County
 - Rita Boyd Randolph County
 - Heidi Dodd..... St. Clair County
 - Dr. Terrance Duncan St. Clair County
 - Tim Eckels*.....Madison County
 - Rosalie Kostecki..... Washington County
 - Elaine McNamara.....Bond County
 - Ted Shekell Madison County
 - Donna Tebbe..... Washington County
 - Connie TurnerMonroe County
- *President*

FY26 Advisory Council

A fifteen-member Advisory Council is led by Cindy Hill of St. Clair County, IL. The Council advises AgeSmart on assessing the needs of older adults and their caregivers and makes recommendations on service priorities.

Angela Banks	Dorene Hoosman
Kelly Barbeau	Bhagya Kolli
Deborah Carter	Samantha Lappe
Venita Dixon	Carrie Lejedal
Cynthia Flynn	Larry McLean
Roger Gass	Theon Phillips
Carol Haslett	Cheryn Sutton
Cindy Hill*	<i>*Chair</i>

FY26 Staff

- Marjorie Moore.....Chief Executive Officer
- Nancy LonsdaleChief Fiscal Officer
- Chris Fulton Chief Operating Officer
- Michelle Schmidtke Information & Assistance Supervisor
- April Hausman/Tabitha Mays . Information & Assistance Specialists
- Robyn Kessler Caregiver Supervisor
- Nancy Berry/Jane Jung..... Caregiver Specialists
- Taylor Grimm/Lauren Reis Program Specialists
- Andrea StephensFiscal Accounting Specialist
- Abigail LagermannAdministrative Assistant
- Carrie Neville/Diane Yates Receptionists

Effective: June 1, 2026

FY26 Grantees

Bond County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Greenville, IL
(618) 664-1465

Clinton County Senior Services
Carlyle, IL
(618) 594-2321
New Baden
(618) 224-9913
Trenton
(618) 224-9913

Collinsville Faith in Action
Collinsville, IL
(618) 344-8080

Edwardsville/Glen Carbon-Faith in Action
Edwardsville, IL
(618) 692-0480

Community Life Line
East St. Louis, IL
(618) 482-2950

Counselors Associates, Ltd.
Maryville, IL
(618) 972-1568

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
East St. Louis, IL
Senior Citizens Legal Services Project
(618) 398-0958 ext. 2236

Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
East St. Louis, IL
(618) 271-2522

Mascoutah Senior Center
Mascoutah, IL
(618) 566-8758

Millstadt Township Senior Services
Millstadt, IL
(618) 476-3731

Northeastern Randolph County Senior Services, Inc.
Sparta, IL
(618) 443-4020

Senior Services Plus, Inc.
Alton, IL
(618) 465-3298

South Central Illinois Mass Transit District
Centralia, IL
(618) 532-8076

SWIC Programs & Services for Older Persons (PSOP)
Belleville, IL
(618) 234-4410

St. John's Community Care
Collinsville, IL
(618) 344-5008

Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association
Swansea, IL
(618) 236-5863

Village of Steeleville
Steeleville, IL
(618) 965-3134 ext. 5

Washington County Senior Services, Inc.
Okawville, IL
(618) 243-6533

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council
Steeleville, IL
(618) 965-3458
Waterloo Senior Center
Waterloo, IL
(618) 939-8880
Chester Senior Center
Chester, IL
(618) 826-5108

Centers for Independent Living		
IMPACT	OFACIL	LINC
Alton, IL (618) 462-1411	Mt. Vernon, IL (618) 244-9212	Swansea, IL (618) 235-9988

Area Plan on Aging

Planning Process

AgeSmart assesses service needs of older adults in the seven-county region every three years as a part of the planning process and establishes a priority service list annually. The service priorities reflect those services found to be the greatest need for those older adults in the planning and service area (PSA). A variety of methods are used to identify the needs of older adults, caregivers, and grandparents raising grandchildren in the PSA as outlined below.

- Studying national trends and reports on the needs of older adults, caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren
- Analyzing U.S. and local census data and other relevant demographic statistics
- Analyzing service utilization using AgingIS and TCARE
- Collecting and analyzing community input through focus groups and surveys

AgeSmart Advisory Council's Planning Committee plays a key role in the planning process. The Planning Committee works closely with AgeSmart staff to establish planning goals and activities throughout the planning process.

AgeSmart holds two public hearings annually to share the proposed Area Plan with the community and receive feedback. The public is encouraged to attend public hearings to discuss and make comments on the Area Plan. Comments gathered during the public hearings are incorporated into the plan.

AgeSmart presents the findings from the assessments to AgeSmart's Board of Directors and Advisory Council to establish service priorities and develop new programs. Through monitoring efforts, open dialogue with service providers, and contact with the public, AgeSmart gathers information to make nuanced or significant changes in programs within the planning cycle. The service priorities reflect those services found to be the greatest need for older adults and their caregivers in the region.

Summary of the Needs Assessment

Between November 2023 and January 2024, AgeSmart surveyed the region's older adults and their family caregivers regarding their needs in the community. Simultaneously, while the surveys were being distributed throughout PSA 08, focus groups were conducted to gather more in-depth analysis of local needs specific to some of the underserved communities.

To ensure that the perspectives from individuals with the greatest social and economic

needs were included, the survey was strategically distributed among residents of St. Clair County Housing, where a majority consists of low-income minority seniors. Over 20% of the survey respondents were from this population. Additionally, focus groups were conducted in rural areas, and a specific focus group was dedicated to the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of diverse needs and experiences.

Methodology

The Older Adults Needs Surveys were distributed through both online platforms and traditional paper survey forms across seven counties. This strategy resulted in 544 completed surveys, capturing a broad and diverse range of perspectives from the community.

The focus groups were strategically designed to target the unique needs of traditionally underserved communities, with particular emphasis on the challenges and perspectives unique to older adults living in rural areas and members of the LGBTQ community. Over a two-month period, three distinct focus groups were conducted, facilitating a comprehensive exploration of the issues and concerns within these underserved populations or geographic areas.

Focus Group	Date	Location	Number of Participants
LGBTQ+ Community	11/30/2023	AgeSmart Community Resources, O'Fallon	8
Clinton County	12/7/2023	St. Joseph's Hospital, Breese	7
Monroe County	1/4/2024	Waterloo Senior Center	10

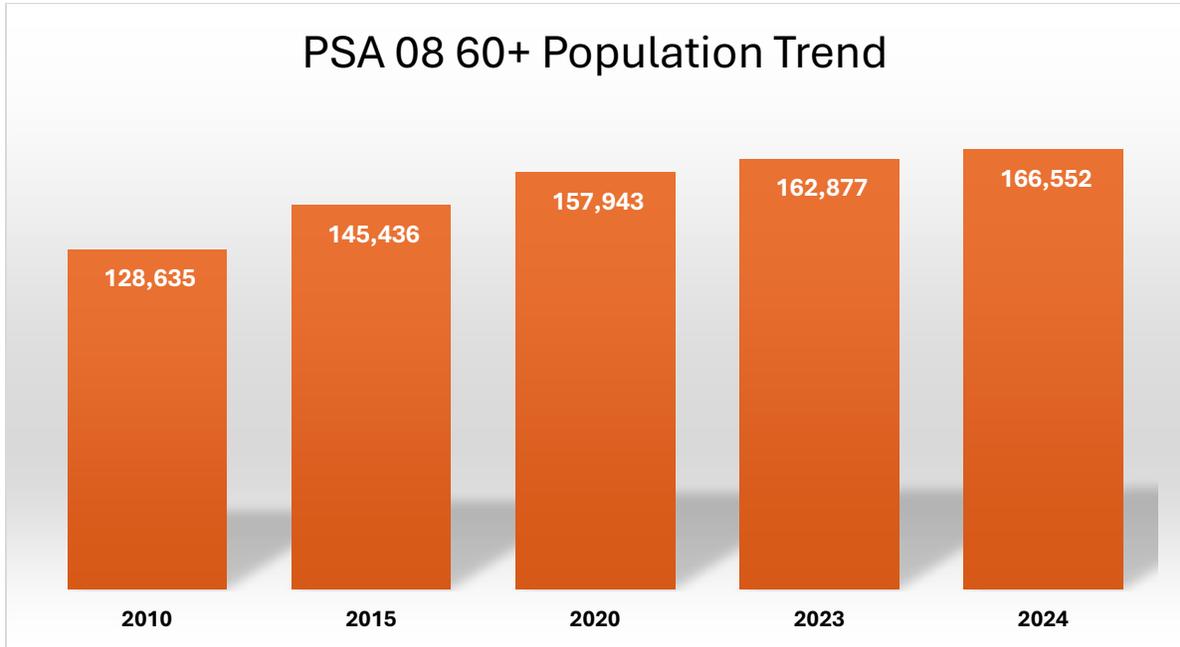
In addition to conducting surveys and focus groups, various community statistics and census data were analyzed. The population of older adults in the region continues to rise. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey (ACS), an estimated 166,552 individuals aged 60 or older reside within AgeSmart's seven-county region. This demographic segment represents approximately 26% of the total population in PSA 08.

PSA08 FY2024 Population Estimates

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	55+ POPULATION	60+ POPULATION	65+ POPULATION	75+ POPULATION	85+ POPULATION	POVERTY POPULATION	MINORITY POPULATION	LIVING ALONE POPULATION
Bond	16,716	5,357	4,056	3,137	1,287	410	303	248	1,285
Clinton	36,954	12,452	9,708	6,955	2,822	843	713	371	2,385
Madison	264,238	85,081	68,124	48,934	19,998	5,532	6,408	6,471	16,985
Monroe	35,036	12,263	9,581	6,913	2,711	839	687	259	1,710
Randolph	30,058	10,869	8,796	6,393	2,740	754	916	398	1,955
St. Clair	253,694	78,258	62,104	44,007	16,976	5,228	6,459	18,770	16,755
Washington	13,627	5,017	4,183	2,948	1,242	305	317	78	1,035

Population	2023 Est.	2024 Est.	Difference	% Change
Total Population	207,530	209,297	1,767 ▲	0.9%
Age 55 & Older Population	207,530	209,297	1,767 ▲	0.9%
Age 60 & Older Population	162,877	166,552	3,675 ▲	2.3%
Age 65 & Older Population	115,835	119,287	3,452 ▲	3.0%
Age 75 & Older Population	46,513	47,776	1,263 ▲	2.7%
Age 85 & Older Population	13,925	13,911	(14) ▼	-0.1%

(American Community Survey 2024 Population Estimates)



Key Findings

1. Limited Awareness of Aging Services

A notable recurring theme emerged from the focus groups is the lack of awareness regarding aging services. Most individuals are unaware of the available aging resources and don't know how to access them. This lack of awareness is also a common concern among family caregivers, who often find themselves uncertain about where to seek services for their loved ones.

LGBTQ+ older adults face unique challenges when seeking assistance, as they navigate a variety of factors that can impact their experiences. Social stigma and discrimination amplify the challenges and further contribute to social isolation.

Focus group participants also emphasized the need for creative outreach strategies in various community settings. Recognizing this gap, our proposed initiative for the upcoming planning cycle centers around increasing the visibility of the aging network.

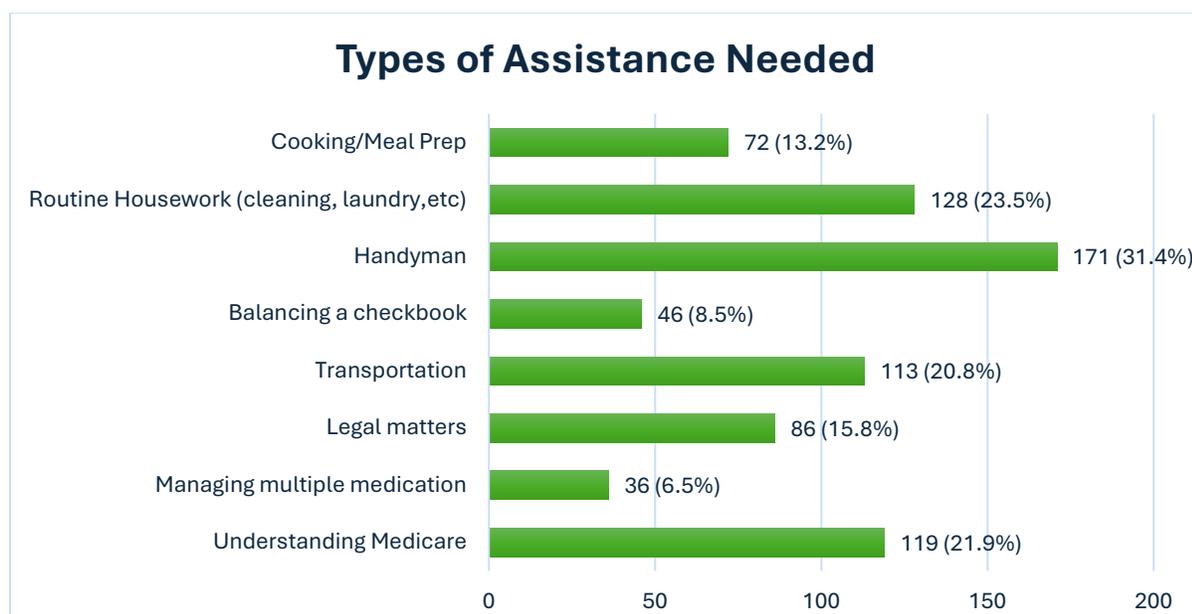
AgeSmart has developed comprehensive strategies to expand and enhance its outreach efforts, incorporating targeted marketing to better reach and inform the target populations including members of the LGBTQ+ community. These efforts are aimed at ensuring that all older adults, regardless of their background or identity, have access to the information and services they need for a better quality of life.

2. Consistent Need for In-Home Assistance

Another recurring and critical need identified by participants is for in-home assistance. Services such as handyman tasks and routine housework were the most frequently mentioned when participants were asked to identify the type of assistance needed. More than 30% of the survey respondents identified handyman service as a gap.

Many older adults prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. Household maintenance tasks such as cleaning, cooking, yard work, and general maintenance can become challenging for older adults. In-home services can provide help with these tasks, ensuring that seniors live in a safe and healthy environment. Despite their importance, accessing these in-home services often proves to be cost-prohibitive. The Illinois Community Care Program, which offers homemaker service, is only available to individuals who meet Medicaid eligibility criteria. This leaves a significant number of older adults who do not qualify for the Community Care Program without affordable options, as private-pay services may be beyond their financial reach.

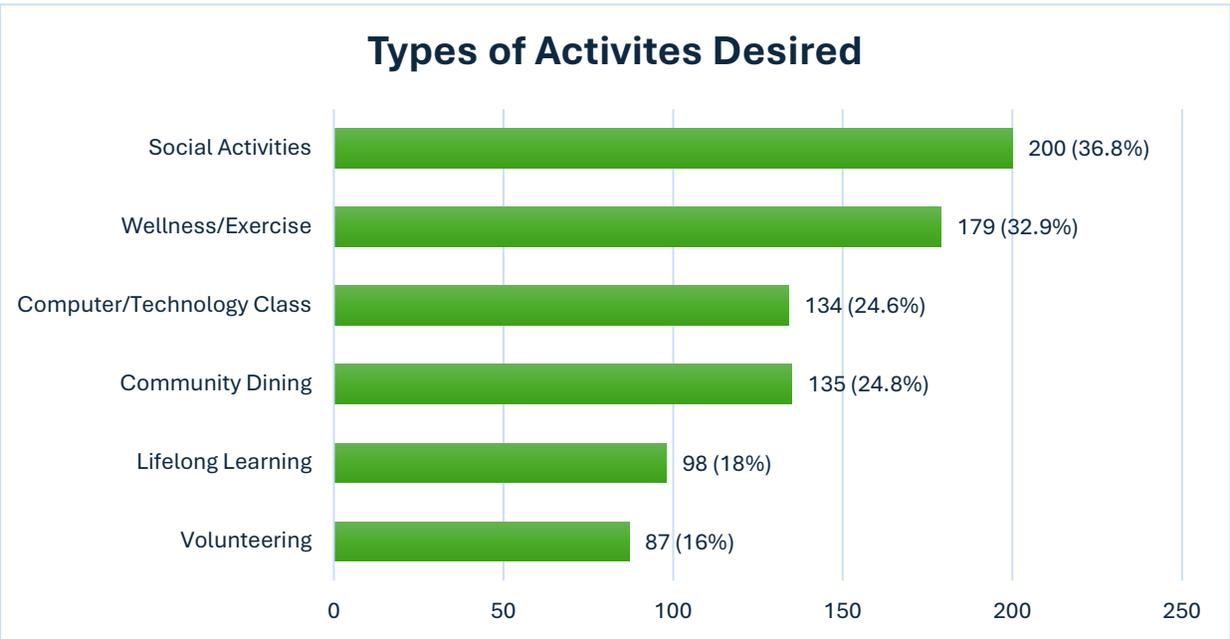
In an effort to address this gap, AgeSmart utilized funds from the American Rescue Act in 2022 to launch a chore program pilot in Madison County. This initiative aims to provide minor home repairs and technology assistance. As we continue to move forward in the FY2025-2027 planning cycle, AgeSmart has increased the program with additional grantees providing services in both Madison and St. Clair County with the goal to expand into other communities in the years ahead.



3. Need for Socialization and Expanded Programming

Socialization consistently emerges as a vital need identified by older adults. The need for socialization is particularly significant in rural areas. Socialization for older adults is crucial for maintaining overall well-being and quality of life. During the survey, participants were asked about their preferences regarding various programs. The findings indicate a need for increased opportunities for social engagement and for a broader range of activities or programs that cater to older adults’ interests and needs.

AgeSmart is committed to continuing its promotion and implementation of the "Without Walls" model. This innovative approach aims to deliver social and educational activities, alongside nutritious meals, to communities where resources are scarce, with a particular focus on rural areas. AgeSmart remains dedicated to improving access to essential services and fostering a sense of community and connection among older adults, addressing the vital need for socialization and engagement.



4. Unique Challenges Faced by LGBTQ+ Older Adults

Insights gleaned from the LGBTQ+ focus group highlighted challenges faced by older adults within the LGBTQ+ community.

- **Social Stigma and Discrimination:** Fear of discrimination or judgment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity often prevents LGBTQ+ older adults from seeking assistance.
- **Lack of Inclusive Services:** Services and support networks often lack adequate training and education to provide inclusive assistance. Concerns were raised

regarding the accessibility of healthcare and the financial and legal challenges faced by LGBTQ+ older adults.

- Isolation and Social Support: LGBTQ+ older adults may have smaller support networks, making it challenging to find understanding and supportive communities.

Recognizing these challenges, AgeSmart is exploring strategies to better engage and support LGBTQ+ older adults. This includes initiatives focused on enhancing the visibility and accessibility of aging resources that are inclusive and affirming of the LGBTQ+ community. The goal is to create a more welcoming and supportive environment that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by LGBTQ+ older adults, ensuring that they can access aging-related resources with dignity and inclusivity.

Statewide Initiative

Initiative #1

Increase statewide visibility of the Aging Network to connect Illinoisans with support and services that encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life as we age

Initiative #2

Drive continuous quality assurance and improvement activities that emphasize person-centered and trauma informed services while maximizing effectiveness of services delivered through the Aging Network

The FY2025-2027 Statewide Initiatives are integrated into the various services detailed in the Area Plan Service Justification. This approach not only aligns with IDOA requirements but also ensures that AgeSmart's strategies are responsive to the needs of the communities.

Continuing in FY26, many of the planned activities to fulfill the statewide initiatives have already begun or are in the process of being implemented. The summary of the progress is outlined below.

AgeSmart has strengthened and refined its outreach and collaboration efforts to enhance the awareness and the accessibility of the Aging Network.

AgeSmart Community Resources has worked diligently to enhance the visibility of the Aging Network across Illinois by expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, and engaging older adults through education, wellness initiatives, and innovative programs.

A key component of this effort has been bringing older adults to AgeSmart's main location for activities that promote wellness and lifelong learning. While participating in these activities, individuals receive direct engagement from staff, who share valuable

information about the full range of services available through AgeSmart and the Aging Network. These interactions help connect older adults to essential resources while reinforcing AgeSmart's role as a trusted community partner.

AgeSmart has also played a crucial role in strengthening consistent messaging among service providers within the Aging Network. By ensuring that these organizations utilize unified branding, logos, and marketing tools, AgeSmart has enhanced public recognition of the network, fostered consumer trust and improved awareness of available services.

Monthly opportunities for providers of Older Americans Act (OAA) and Community Care services to connect and collaborate have further bolstered visibility and coordination within the network. Additionally, AgeSmart has actively engaged with Dementia Friendly Communities in Belleville, O'Fallon, and Shiloh, further integrating aging services into community-based initiatives. Currently, we are working to expand into Madison and Randolph counties.

Several new and special initiatives launched during this period have significantly contributed to increasing the Aging Network's reach. The **Senior Connections Lunch and Learn series** has provided vital education and resources for older adults and their allies, while the development of **Timeless Voices**, an intergenerational podcast, has brought attention to issues of aging and ageism in a compelling and accessible format.

Beyond these initiatives, AgeSmart has continued to strengthen transportation access by collaborating with transit providers to help older adults obtain bus passes. We continue to work with our partners to meet the ongoing need for assisted transportation and transportation needs within PSA8.

Efforts to bring services directly to older adults have also been a priority. The **Without Walls (W.O.W.) program** continues to expand its outreach, increasing the availability of nutrition services in community settings. Additionally, AgeSmart has enhanced written outreach through its **newsletter, social media platforms, and widely distributed printed materials**, ensuring that critical information reaches older adults, caregivers, and service providers across the region.

Through these strategic efforts, AgeSmart has successfully increased public awareness and reinforced the statewide visibility of the Aging Network, ensuring that older adults and their families remain informed, supported, and connected to vital services.

AgeSmart conducts an ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all funded projects that are carried out under the area plan to ensure service quality and compliance with state, local, and federal regulations.

AgeSmart regularly monitors the programmatic and fiscal performance of the funded programs utilizing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. Data is being reviewed on a monthly and quarterly basis. The program and fiscal monitoring process

involves a thorough examination of grantees' written reports mentioned below and performing desk audits of both program and fiscal data.

AgeSmart conducted its program on-site review of grantees in FY25. A comprehensive on-site evaluation consists of program compliance survey, an interview with the grantee program director, and an AgingIS database audit. Following the review, grantees receive a detailed report outlining the findings, including any identified areas for improvement. A monitoring letter is issued to address compliance concerns, specifying required corrective actions and time frames for resolution. All grantee program monitoring evaluations were completed by June 2025.

AgeSmart also performs routine data audits for grantees to identify and rectify any missing demographic information in AgingIS. Utilizing these monitoring tools, AgeSmart staff assesses the progress of grantees in meeting programmatic and financial objectives. Following the evaluation, the staff prepares a management letter for the grantee, outlining the performance status and addressing any concerns related to resolving issues or deficiencies.

Monthly network meetings provided by AgeSmart continue to provide a vital platform for collaboration and information sharing. These meetings keep grantees informed, trained and compliant. By fostering ongoing dialogue and support, AgeSmart ensures that grantees stay equipped to deliver high-quality services to older adults in the community.

Local Initiative

Increase public awareness and knowledge of caregiver needs, as well as resources and services available throughout the state of Illinois to promote increased caregiver engagement in person-centered, trauma-informed, and evidence-based programs and services

AgeSmart, in collaboration with the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA) and the AAA network, conducted a comprehensive assessment to identify the caregiving needs within the state of Illinois. Locally within the PSA, AgeSmart hosted 5 focus groups and surveyed 544 older adults including caregivers.

IDOA's findings were similar to those in the PSA. Attendees in the IDOA Roundtables emphasized the importance of holistic support, spanning healthcare, transportation, community services, and individual needs. Identified gaps included a lack of caregiver training, limited awareness, and the need for increased visibility of available resources. Local findings revealed that a significant portion of caregivers did not self-identify, were hesitant to seek assistance due to perceived duty, and lacked awareness of available resources.

To amplify awareness of our caregiver support initiatives, AgeSmart has employed a multifaceted outreach strategy. This involves collaborating with community partners, healthcare providers, and local media outlets. The summary of the progress is outlined below.

Starting in October 2024 and continuing through 2026, AgeSmart Community Resources has taken significant steps to increase public awareness and knowledge of caregiver needs, ensuring that family caregivers receive the support, resources, and recognition they deserve.

To strengthen outreach, AgeSmart created and distributed targeted materials for primary care physicians and hospital social workers, providing them with essential information on available caregiver resources and services. These efforts have helped healthcare professionals connect caregivers with critical support systems, easing the challenges of caregiving.

Recognizing the need to support working caregivers, AgeSmart launched a pilot Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for family caregivers in collaboration with two local employers. This initiative introduced dedicated on-site caregiver specialists and a series of Lunch and Learn sessions, equipping employees with valuable information and direct access to support. By embedding caregiver assistance within the workplace, AgeSmart has helped normalize discussions around caregiving while providing tangible solutions for employees balancing work and caregiving responsibilities.

In addition to in-person initiatives, AgeSmart has expanded its digital presence to further elevate caregiver visibility. The organization continued to enhance its social media platforms, introducing a special “Caregiver Corner” segment in its monthly newsletter to highlight key resources, tips, and caregiver-focused content. Furthermore, AgeSmart launched a dedicated Caregiver Connections Facebook page, creating an online space for caregivers to find support, share experiences, and access valuable information. Recognizing the increasing need for dementia-friendly resources, AgeSmart also introduced a new Facebook page specifically for Dementia Friendly O’Fallon, strengthening community engagement and outreach in dementia-related caregiving.

Beyond these efforts, AgeSmart remains committed to expanding Dementia Friendly Communities throughout the region, ensuring that more communities become equipped to support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Through these initiatives, AgeSmart has significantly increased public awareness of caregiver needs, strengthened access to support services, and fostered community engagement, ensuring that caregivers are recognized, supported, and connected to the resources they need.

FY27 Service Priorities

Changes in Service Delivery

As the designated regional Area Agency on Aging, AgeSmart is responsible for ensuring that Older Americans Act services are coordinated, accessible, and responsive across the entire service area. By assuming the ADRD Gap and Title III-E Caregiver Gap services, AgeSmart strengthens its role in identifying unmet needs, reducing disparities, and ensuring continuity of support for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

This transition also allows AgeSmart to better address the unique challenges faced by less dense and rural counties, where limited provider networks and geographic barriers can restrict access. By managing these gap services directly, AgeSmart can more equitably distribute resources, improve oversight and data tracking, and ensure consistent, person-centered support throughout the region.

The service priorities for FY2027 are outlined below.

Should the amount of federal or state funding decrease, AgeSmart will revise the service priorities based on the needs of a service developing plan that would cause the least harm to consumers. Services provided by county can be found in the Appendix.

Service Definition	Projected Persons Served in FY27	Projected Units of Service in FY27
Title III-B Access Services		
Options Counseling	125	325
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i> Providing a person-centered, interactive, decision-support process whereby individuals receive assistance in their deliberations to make informed long-term support choices in the context of their own preferences, strengths, and values.		
Assisted Transportation	350	6,500
<i>(Provided by two grantees in portions of Madison and St. Clair counties)</i> Providing transportation and an escort to older persons who have difficulty using regular transportation.		
Information & Assistance (I & A)	35,000	40,000
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart and multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i> Providing current information on opportunities and services available in communities; connecting people with available resources; and ensuring they access necessary services through comprehensive follow-up procedures.		

Transportation	1000	34,000
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Transporting older persons to and from community facilities and resources for the purpose of acquiring and receiving services, participating in activities, and attending events to reduce isolation and promote successful independent living.		
Title III-B In-Home Services		
Residential Repair & Renovation	600	900
<i>(Provided by three grantees throughout the service area)</i>		
Assisting older persons with physical or cognitive problems to maintain or adapt their homes to meet their needs.		
Telephone Reassurance	2,800	15,000
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Weekly telephone calls to individuals to provide psychological reassurance and reduce isolation.		
Title III-B Community Services		
Legal Assistance	950	6,500
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Services include arranging for and providing assistance in resolving civil legal matters and the protection of legal rights, including legal advice, research and education concerning legal rights and representation by an attorney at law, a trained paralegal professional (supervised by an attorney), and/or a law student (supervised by an attorney) for an older person.		
Gap Filling	24	24
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing financial assistance to older adults, enabling them to preserve their independence by remaining in their homes when no other resources are accessible.		
Title III-C1 Community Services		
Congregate Meals	3,000	115,000
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing nutritious meals in a congregate setting for qualified individuals.		
Grab & Go Meals	1,200	40,000
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing nutritious grab and go meals for qualified individuals.		
Title III-C2 Access Services		
Nutrition Counseling Education	350	400
<i>(Provided by one grantee: In-Person or by Phone in Madison and St. Clair County and Virtually throughout PSA 8)</i>		
One-on-one individual guidance provided by a nutritionist to support healthy eating habits.		

Title III-C2 In-Home Services		
Home Delivered Meals	4,500	560,000
<i>(Provided by multiple grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing nutritious meals delivered to older persons who are homebound due to illness or disability.		
Title III-D Disease Prevention & Health Promotion		
Health Promotion Programs	175	2000
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing evidence-based wellness programs to promote better health among older persons.		
Title III-E Assistance Services		
Information & Assistance for Caregivers	4,500	7,500
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart and two grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing current information on opportunities and services to family caregivers; connecting them with available resources; and ensuring they access necessary services through comprehensive follow-up procedures.		
Case Management for Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren	30	120
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing one-on-one case management to assist older relative caregivers raising grandchildren in obtaining services and accessing resources within their communities.		
Title III-E Information Services		
Public Education	1500	60
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Information service that is directed to large audiences of current and potential caregivers.		
Title III-E Counseling, Support Group, Training Services		
Counseling	150	400
<i>(Provided by two grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
One-on-one individual counseling service for family caregivers.		
Support Group	100	450
<i>(Provided by two grantees throughout PSA 8)</i>		
A social gathering for people living with Dementia and Parkinsons and their family caregivers providing a safe and supportive environment to socialize.		
Caregiver Training	50	190
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Training and Education programs for caregivers caring for a loved one with dementia: Savvy Caregiver, Stressbusting, and Powerful Tools for Caregivers		

Title III-E Respite Services		
Respite for Caregivers	120	25,500
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Providing temporary, substitute support to allow Family Caregivers a brief period for rest or to attend to other needs.		
Title III-E Supplemental Services		
Gap Filling for Caregivers	10	10
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
A supplemental service for caregivers that provides financial assistance on a case-by-case basis.		
Gap Filling for Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren	20	20
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
A supplemental service for Older Adults Raising Grandchildren that provides relief for unmet needs and services on a case-by-case basis.		
Legal Assistance for Caregivers	50	150
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Services include arranging for and providing assistance in resolving civil legal matters and the protection of legal rights, including legal advice, research and education concerning legal rights and representation by an attorney at law, a trained paralegal professional (supervised by an attorney), and/or a law student (supervised by an attorney) for caregivers of older persons.		
Legal Assistance for Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren	10	100
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Services include arranging for and providing assistance in resolving civil legal matters and the protection of legal rights, including legal advice, research and education concerning legal rights and representation by an attorney at law, a trained paralegal professional (supervised by an attorney), and/or a law student (supervised by an attorney) for older adults raising grandchildren.		
ADRD Supportive Gap	18	18
<i>(Provided by AgeSmart throughout PSA 8)</i>		
A supplemental service for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD).		
Title III-B/VII Long Term Care Ombudsman		
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
Advocating for residents of long-term care facilities, developing rapport with residents and providing advocacy, support and education about their rights.		
Title VII Elder Rights - Adult Protective Services		
<i>(Provided by one grantee throughout PSA 8)</i>		
A service that responds to reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older adults aged 60+ and adults with disabilities aged 18-59 providing investigation, intervention and follow-up services to victims.		

Other Services

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

Senior Medicare Patrol empowers and assists Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education. The Illinois SMP program is administered through AgeOptions in Suburban Cook County and AgeSmart participates in this statewide initiative serving as the SMP Coordinator for the Southern Illinois counties.

Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP)

Senior Health Assistance Program offers seniors information and free help filling out applications for programs.

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Program (MIPPA)

MIPPA services are designed to help Medicare beneficiaries with limited income learn about and apply for cost-saving programs, including the Medicare Savings Programs, the Low-Income Subsidy (Extra Help) for Part D prescription coverage, and Medicaid when appropriate. Through MIPPA, Area Agencies on Aging and State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) provide one-on-one counseling, community education, and targeted outreach to individuals who may be eligible but not enrolled. The goal is to reduce financial barriers to care, increase access to benefits, and ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can afford their Medicare coverage and medications.

Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

SHIP is a free health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers. Consumers are provided with information, assistance, and resources about applying for and maintaining their Medicare coverage.

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

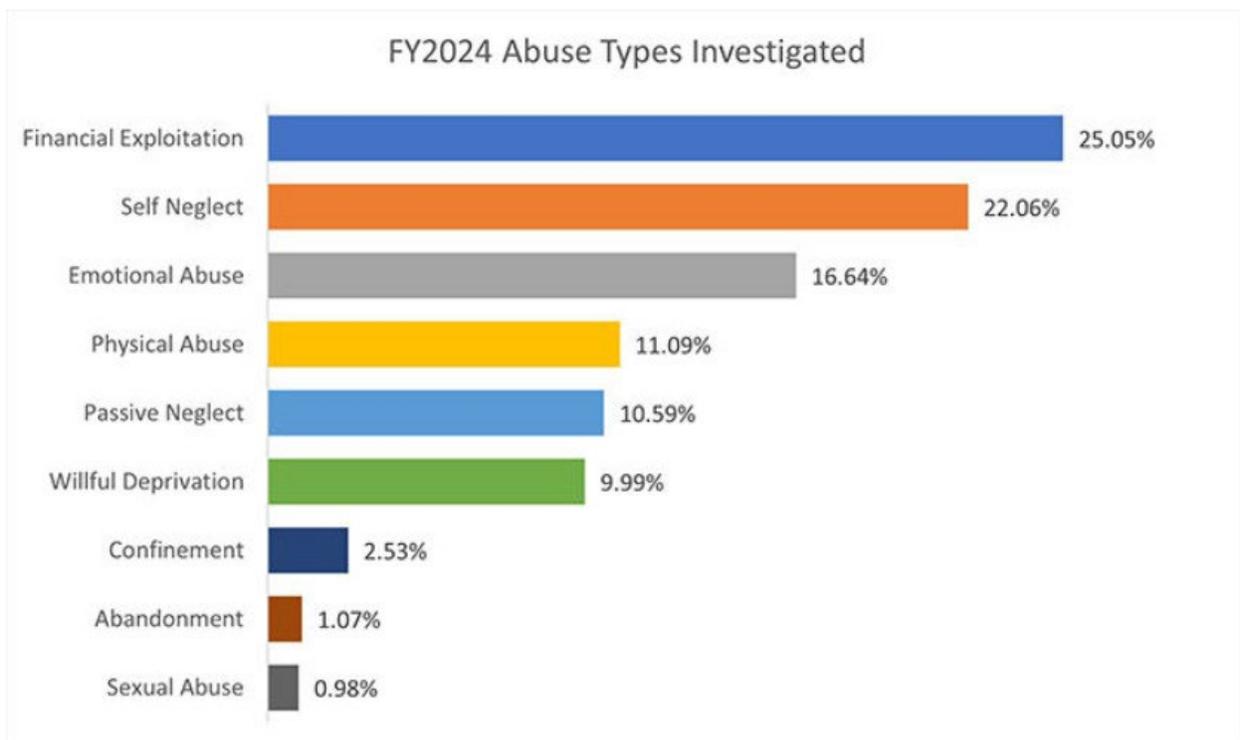
The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides low-income seniors with vouchers that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets and roadside stands. AgeSmart, in collaboration with local organizations, distributes vouchers to eligible seniors who self-report their income.

Adult Protective Services

The **Adult Protective Services**, under authority of the Illinois Adult Protective Services Act, responds to reports of alleged abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of persons 60 years of age and older, and of persons aged 18-59 with disabilities living in the community. It is designed to build upon the existing legal, medical, and social service systems in place, and ensures the system is more responsive to the needs of abuse victims.

Types of Abuse

- Physical Abuse – inflicting physical pain or injury on a senior, e.g. slapping, bruising, or restraining by physical or chemical means.
- Sexual Abuse – non-consensual sexual contact of any kind.
- Neglect – the failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, health care, or protection for a vulnerable elder.
- Exploitation – the illegal taking, misuse, or concealment of funds, property, or assets of a senior for someone else’s benefit.
- Emotional Abuse – inflicting mental pain, anguish, or distress on an elder person through verbal or nonverbal acts, e.g. humiliating, intimidating, or threatening.
- Abandonment – desertion of a vulnerable elder by anyone who has assumed the responsibility for care or custody of that person.
- Self-neglect – characterized as the failure of a person to perform essential, self-care tasks and that such failure threatens his/her own health or safety.



(Illinois Department on Aging, APS Statistics)

AgeSmart serves as the Regional Administrative Agency for the Illinois Adult Protective Services as designated by IDOA, and in turn, grants funds to a local agency to ensure direct client services are provided. Every month, approximately 125-130 abuse and neglect cases are reported to Adult Protective Services in PSA 8.

To Report Abuse

Anyone can report suspected abuse. By law, anyone making an Adult Protective Services report in good faith has civil and criminal immunity from liability and professional disciplinary action. All reports are kept confidential and anonymous reports are accepted.

Call the **Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurse Association:**
1-800-642-5429

Adult Protective Services (APS) - (24/7 Line)
1-866-800-1409 (Voice)

For deaf and speech-impaired communication over the telephone,
dial Illinois Relay at 711

Illinois Department on Aging Senior Help Line: (24/7 Line)
1-800-252-8966 (Voice)

For deaf and speech-impaired communication over the telephone,
dial Illinois Relay at 711

For residents who live in nursing facilities, call the
**Illinois Department of Public Health's
Nursing Home Complaint Hotline:**
1-800-252-4343

For residents who live in Supportive Living Program settings, call the
**Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services'
SLP Complaint Hotline:**
1-844-528-8444

Administration

Administrative Activities

The OAA restricts AgeSmart administrative cost to 10% of the Title III funding. AgeSmart's proposed administrative expenses and activities are outlined below.

Budget: \$631,000

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Implement Area Plan assurances
- Implement Area Plan Statewide and Local Initiatives
- Procure Federal and State funds
- Maintain SmartSimple Grants Management System and provide trainings for grantees
- Maintain AgingIS NAPIS databases and provide technical assistance to grantees
- Monitor grantees in program and fiscal performance including on-site reviews
- Provide technical assistance and training for grantees
- Comply with IDOA requests and requirements
- Complete the annual Agency Financial Audit
- Write and disseminate an annual report
- Follow Civil Rights regulations and monitor grantees' adherence
- Provide Board Management training for the Board of Directors
- Provide Service Procurement training for the Advisory Council
- Provide administrative support for the Board of Directors and Advisory Council
- Maintain AgeSmart's website (www.AgeSmart.org) to provide the public with 24/7 access to comprehensive aging resources
- Administer and coordinate Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Administratively Related Activities

In addition to the 10% administrative cost, AgeSmart retains part of III-B supportive service funds for Administratively Related Direct Services, which are Advocacy, Coordination, and Program Development. AgeSmart's proposed administrative related expenses and activities are outlined below.

Advocacy

AgeSmart educates public officials and the community on aging issues and assists them in addressing the needs of the aging population. We also monitor proposed legislation and policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

Budget: \$102,000

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Coordinate advocacy campaigns to promote policies and services for older Illinoisans
- Participate in delivering policy and budget priorities to state legislators
- Participate in the USAging's Policy Briefing and Capitol Hill Day; provide AAA Board, Advisory Council, service providers, and the general public with advocacy alerts facilitating grassroots participation on issues of importance to seniors and persons with disabilities
- Provide legislators with information regarding constituencies including but not limited to demographics, service trends, number of consumers served to address the area's needs
- Visit legislators (2 senators, 3 congressional representatives, 5 state senators, and 9 state representatives) and stay in constant contact regarding important issues regarding beneficiaries (locally and in Springfield)
- Seek contact with 7 county boards, over 70 mayors and village presidents, 133 township and precinct supervisors
- Advisory Council hosts bi-monthly meetings throughout the Aging Network to address advocacy issues
- Serve as a catalyst for local community elected officials who are interested in programs for constituents aged 60 and older and meet with them individually on multiple occasions
- Encourage the media to highlight issues pertaining to older adults and their caregivers

Coordination

AgeSmart coordinates efforts with a variety of local organizations in the PSA to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of community-based services for older adults.

Budget: \$60,000

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Coordinate efforts throughout AgeSmart's PSA for the Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP) / Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) / MIPAA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act) / Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) / Options Counseling
- Attend various health and senior fairs throughout the PSA
- Participate in quarterly meetings with the CCU and CCP providers
- Serve as a catalyst for local community elected officials who are interested in programs for constituents aged 60 and older by meeting with them individually on multiple occasions
- Serve as Senior Medicare Fraud Patrol Volunteer Coordinator
- Work with local Lions Clubs to offer eye screenings

- Serve on the following state and local committees:
 - Aging and Disabilities Resource Center Leadership Team
 - Belleville Chamber of Commerce – Board of Directors
 - Belleville Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Committee
 - Caregiver Connections Conference Committee
 - Clinton, Marion & Washington Counties Collaborative (CMWCC)
 - Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A)
 - Illinois Caregiver Coalition
 - Illinois Coalition of Mental Health and Aging
 - Illinois Falls Prevention Coalition
 - Illinois Nutrition Advisory Council
 - Illinois Partners for Human Service
 - Illinois State 211 Board
 - Inform Illinois (formerly Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS))
 - Latino Roundtable
 - Leadership Belleville
 - Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
 - Madison County Mental Health Alliance
 - Madison County TRIAD
 - Monroe County Networking
 - O’Fallon Chamber of Commerce
 - O’Fallon Chamber of Commerce Healthcare and Wellness Committee
 - Reveille Veterans Services Network
 - St. Clair County Emergency Preparedness
 - St. Clair County Healthcare Commission
 - St. Clair County Recovery Oriented Systems Care
 - St. Clair County Suicide Prevention Alliance
 - St. Clair County Violence/Safety Committee
 - St. Clair County Walk to End Alzheimer’s
 - Southern Illinois Human Services Transportation Planning Committee (Region 9 & 11)
 - Southern Madison County Community Collaborative
 - Southwestern Illinois College Human Services Department Advisory Council
 - Southwestern Illinois Pioneer Coalition Leadership
 - The O’Fallon-Shiloh Leadership Institute (Lead In)
 - United Way of Greater St. Louis 211 Advisory Committee

Program Development

Responding to unique local needs, AgeSmart develops new programs and services that promote health and independence of older adults. Through the process of assessing community needs and analysis of the existing service system, we identify the need and develop a pilot or expand existing programs to fill the gap.

Budget: \$102,000

Activities include but are not limited to:

- Develop and implement new programs
- Encourage innovation through pilot programs and prototypes
- Provide grantees with training opportunities to assist in developing innovative solutions
- Follow Request for Proposal procedures to procure service providers
- Utilize the Advisory Council throughout the granting process
- Participate as members on the following IDOA Councils: Nutrition, Adult Protective Services, Caregiver, and Long-Term Care Ombudsman
- One staff member is certified in Federal Grants Management by Management Concepts, Inc.
- Train grantees in program, fiscal, and NAPIS reporting
- Attend Adult Protective Services and Ombudsman related trainings
- Program Specialists maintain Certified Food Protection Manager Certification

Services Directly Provided by AgeSmart

AgeSmart proposes to continue to provide III-B/E Information & Assistance, III-B Options Counseling, III-B Gap Filling, III-E Public Education, III-E Training, III-E Case Management and Gap Filling for Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren, III-E Respite, and requests Direct Service Waivers to directly provide these services. Additionally, for FY27 AgeSmart is requesting Direct Service Waiver for ADRD Gap and III-E Caregiver Gap.

III-B/III-E Information and Assistance

AgeSmart provides area-wide Information & Assistance (I&A) and Options Counseling as a single point of entry serving older adults, their caregivers and people with disabilities in the seven-county region.

Synopsis of Activities

- Provide individuals with current information on opportunities and services available
- Assess problems and capacities of older adults and caregivers
- Establish adequate follow-up procedures based on the older individual's or caregiver's needs
- Maintain a resource database for PSA 8
- Provide AgingIS technical assistance to grantees
- Utilize warm transfer feature to connect callers to grantees and Aging Network services

- Maintain Certified Information & Referral Specialists for Aging/Disability (CIRS-AD)
- Maintain AgeSmart website (www.AgeSmart.org) to provide consumers with 24/7 access to aging resources
- Provide education programs to the public
- Caregiver Specialists to assess caregivers utilizing TCARE and assist caregivers in developing Care plans

Justification

AgeSmart Community Resources serves as the central provider of Title III B Information and Assistance (I&A) within its Planning and Service Area, ensuring a seamless experience for older adults and caregivers. While funding eight local providers, AgeSmart also acts as the primary regional contact, including handling referrals from the Elder Care Locator. This approach reduces confusion, supports a “no wrong door” policy, and ensures easy access to services.

AgeSmart strengthens regional I&A by offering technical assistance and training to local providers. Its location in St. Clair County allows it to effectively reach high-need populations, particularly older adults and minorities. Additionally, its caregiver specialist program, provides vital education, counseling, and navigation support. No other local agency matches AgeSmart’s capacity, making its direct I&A services essential to the community.

III-B Options Counseling

AgeSmart provides Options Counseling services throughout the entire PSA to all persons with disabilities aged 18+ and older adults who request current long-term support services and/or persons of any age who are planning for the future regarding long term support services without regard to income or assets.

Synopsis of activities:

- Outreach to all communities on the service and its value in planning
- Personal interview
- Exploration of resources
- Decision support
- Goal setting
- Links to available services
- Follow up with consumers

Justification

AgeSmart serves as the central hub for Information and Assistance services in the seven-county region, overseeing coordination and training. Options Counseling shifts the approach from a traditional medical model to a person-centered framework. Well-positioned to lead this transition, AgeSmart provides network-wide training and updates to enhance service delivery. Like Information and Assistance, its Options Counseling

supports the PSA’s efforts to offer consumers the most current and comprehensive resources.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III-B Information & Assistance	\$90,000	9,000	12,000
Title III-E Information & Assistance for Caregivers	\$75,000	3,200	5,500
Title III-B Options Counseling	\$6,000	25	75

III-B Gap Filling

A financial assistance service to help older adults maintain stable housing, whether in a rental or owned home. This program addresses financial challenges arising from fixed incomes, unexpected expenses, or the rising cost of living.

Synopsis of Activities

- Conduct a comprehensive intake to assess the needs of consumers.
- Assistance with identifying and applying for relevant programs, subsidies, or benefits that can alleviate financial stress.
- Collaboration with local social services agencies and community partners to connect seniors with additional support services.
- Advocate for seniors, assisting them in navigating financial challenges and communicating with relevant stakeholders.
- In cases of immediate need or unexpected expenses, the program provides emergency funding to cover essential housing-related costs.
- Provide follow-up support to ensure consumer satisfaction.

Justification

AgeSmart is uniquely positioned to administer gap-filling services that help older adults remain in or transition to safer, more stable housing. As the regional leader in aging services, AgeSmart has the infrastructure, experience, and oversight capacity to efficiently manage funds and ensure they reach those in need. With established systems for direct service provision and a deep understanding of the financial challenges older adults face, AgeSmart can effectively address housing instability while maintaining compliance with legal and ethical standards. No other agency in the PSA has the same ability to administer these funds comprehensively, making AgeSmart the best-suited provider for this essential service.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III-B Gap Filling	\$18,000	24	24

III-E Public Education

AgeSmart offers Public Education for family caregivers across the seven-county region. Through events, community presentations, and media campaigns, the program delivers essential information, resources, and support while encouraging caregivers to access available services.

Synopsis of Activities

- Attend local Health and Information Fairs in the communities reaching out to caregivers
- Conduct community presentations which provide information and resources as well as link caregivers to needed services and benefits
- Provide caregivers with on-the-spot access to information through the resource database and website
- Co-host the annual **Caregiver Connections Conference** that is designed to educate and support caregivers
- Host **Smart Aging Series** providing educational sessions on key topics that support independent living
- Use online newsletters and social media to engage the public and promote Home and Community-Based Services

Justification

AgeSmart is the best provider of Public Education for family caregivers because it has the resources, staff capacity, and technology to effectively reach the community. While many health and informational fairs occur in the region, most grantees cannot attend due to time and cost constraints. AgeSmart’s ability to participate in these events, along with its mobile access to the Resource Database, enables real-time, individualized support for caregivers. No other agency is equipped to fill this critical gap in public education and outreach.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III-E Public Education	\$33,000	1,500	60

III-E Respite

AgeSmart administers a consumer directed Respite Care Program for primary caregivers of individuals aged 60 and older across the PSA, providing short-term relief to ease the physical and emotional demands of caregiving. This service allows caregivers the flexibility to choose their own respite providers, ensuring personalized support.

Synopsis of Activities

- Assessments, utilizing TCARE
- Verify monthly Respite Service Forms, assist in completing the form and make follow-up phone calls, if needed
- Maintain Respite client database, tracking service utilization
- Reimburse caregivers up to \$150 per month for Respite care
- Provide caregivers with information on educational opportunities and resources to help with their caregiving

Justification

AgeSmart is best suited to administer Respite Care due to its established infrastructure, regional oversight, and commitment to caregiver support. No other agency offers the same level of flexibility and accessibility, ensuring caregivers receive the relief they need while maintaining choice in care options.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III-E Respite	\$192,000	120	25,500

III-E Training & Education/Caregiver ADRD Classes

AgeSmart offers Training and Education for family caregivers across the seven-county region. Through arranging, promoting and providing courses, classes, seminars, lectures and other presentations in the community, the program delivers essential information, resources, and support while encouraging caregivers to access available services.

Synopsis of Activities

- Arranging, promoting and providing courses, classes, seminars, lectures and other presentations in the community;
- Developing teaching aids and/or informational materials; and
- Arranging for group tours of facilities or organizations that provide services that may be utilized by family caregivers of nursing home residents.

Justification

This service equips caregivers with essential knowledge and skills in areas such as dementia care, stress management, legal and financial planning, and self-care. As the designated Area Agency on Aging, AgeSmart has the expertise and community relationships needed to deliver accurate, up-to-date, and culturally responsive education — ensuring all caregivers, including those in underserved communities, have access to the support they need. Providing this service directly allows AgeSmart to respond quickly to emerging needs, maintain program quality, and fulfill its mission of supporting family caregivers across the region.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III E Training & ED CG ADRD Classes	\$13,000	20	80

III-E Case Management for Older Relatives/Gap for Older Relatives

AgeSmart provides support through access to services or care coordination for grandparents or older relatives raising grandchildren. This assistance is crucial when caregivers experience diminished functioning capacities, health conditions, or other challenges that require formal service providers' involvement.

Synopsis of Activities

- Case Finding Activities: The identification of individuals for intake.
- Conduct a comprehensive intake to assess the needs of consumers.
- Needs Assessment utilizing GRG module in TCARE
- Case Plan Development: A written plan of care shall be prepared for each client utilizing appropriate formal and informal resources.
- In cases of immediate need or unexpected expenses, the program provides emergency funding to cover essential costs.
- Care Plan implementation: Referrals for appropriate resources for service provision and/or problem resolution shall be made.
- Intervention and advocacy on behalf of the consumer to access necessary services from community organizations.
- Establishment of linkages with service providers for the prompt and effective delivery of services needed by the consumer.
- Follow-up: Periodic monitoring shall be conducted through telephone or face-to-face contact.
- Reassessment of the client's situation and needs will occur yearly or as dictated by change in the consumer's circumstance.

Justification

AgeSmart's efforts to enhance the services for grandparents raising grandchildren included a new service, grandparents raising grandchildren case management. In the most recent RFP process for GRG Gap Filling and Case Management there were no applicants. In response, AgeSmart has determined to provide these services directly.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III E Case Management for Older Relatives	\$24,000	30	120
Title III E Gap for Older Relatives	\$15,000	20	20

III-E ADRD Gap/Gap for Caregivers

A financial assistance service to help caregivers of older adults with immediate need or unexpected assistance when there is no other funding to cover costs. This program addresses financial challenges arising from fixed incomes, unexpected expenses, or the rising cost of living.

Synopsis of Activities

- Identification of individuals for intake.
- Conduct a comprehensive intake to assess the needs of consumers.
- Needs Assessment utilizing TCARE
- In cases of immediate need or unexpected expenses, the program provides emergency funding to cover essential costs. Funds are utilized only when there is no other funding source available.
- Establishment of linkages with service providers for the prompt and effective delivery of services needed by the consumer.
- Follow-up: Periodic monitoring shall be conducted through telephone or face-to-face contact.
- Reassessment of the client’s situation and needs will occur yearly or as dictated by change in the consumer’s circumstance

Justification

As the regional Area Agency on Aging, AgeSmart is uniquely positioned to administer Title III E Caregiver Gap and ADRD Gap services that help stabilize and support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. With established infrastructure, direct service experience, and strong fiscal oversight, AgeSmart can efficiently manage gap funding and ensure resources reach those with the greatest need.

Its comprehensive understanding of caregiver burden and dementia-related challenges allows for responsive and equitable service delivery across the PSA. No other agency in the region has the same capacity to administer these funds in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, making AgeSmart the most appropriate provider for these critical gap services.

Program	Budget	Projected Persons	Projected Units
Title III E ADRD Gap	\$9,000	18	18
Title III E Gap for Caregivers	\$5,000	10	10

Dementia Friendly Initiative

Budget: \$14,970

The Illinois Dementia Friendly Initiative is a statewide effort to help communities better support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. As part of the Dementia Friendly America movement, the initiative promotes community education, cross-sector collaboration, and inclusive practices that enable people with dementia to remain engaged, safe, and supported in their local communities.

Synopsis of Activities

- Represent AgeSmart at all mandatory grant meetings, including monthly Illinois Cognitive Resources Network (ICRN) meetings and related workgroups.
- Re-engage and advance Dementia Friendly Community (DFC) initiatives in O'Fallon, Belleville, and Glen Carbon/Edwardsville/Madison County.
- Convene and collaborate with key stakeholders including law enforcement, chambers of commerce, hospitals, hospice, libraries, TRIAD, and community organizations.
- Conduct public education campaigns including seminars, workshops, and training sessions to increase dementia awareness and reduce stigma.
- Partner with police departments, healthcare systems, businesses, and libraries to implement dementia-friendly practices.
- Build upon established initiatives such as Madison County TRIAD to accelerate community readiness.
- Coordinate with ICRN to meet requirements for inclusion on the National Registry of Dementia Friendly Communities.
- Engage Advisory Council in helping establish Dementia Friendly Communities

Justification

AgeSmart Community Resources provides Dementia Friendly Community development and coordination as a direct service. As the designated Area Agency on Aging, AgeSmart has the regional leadership, infrastructure, and established community partnerships necessary to effectively guide and sustain dementia-friendly initiatives across PSA 8.

This is an on-going initiative that began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and has resumed with renewed stakeholder engagement. AgeSmart leadership participates in required Illinois Cognitive Resources Network (ICRN) meetings to ensure alignment with statewide standards and progress toward inclusion on the National Registry of Dementia Friendly Communities.

Through extensive collaboration with local law enforcement, chambers of commerce, hospitals, hospice providers, libraries, and Madison County TRIAD, AgeSmart provides centralized coordination that no other regional entity is positioned to deliver. Its statutory authority, neutral convening role, and regional scope ensure efficient oversight, accountability, and measurable progress.

By leading stakeholder engagement, public education, and community planning efforts, AgeSmart advances inclusive, dementia-supportive environments that strengthen community-based supports and enhance quality of life for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

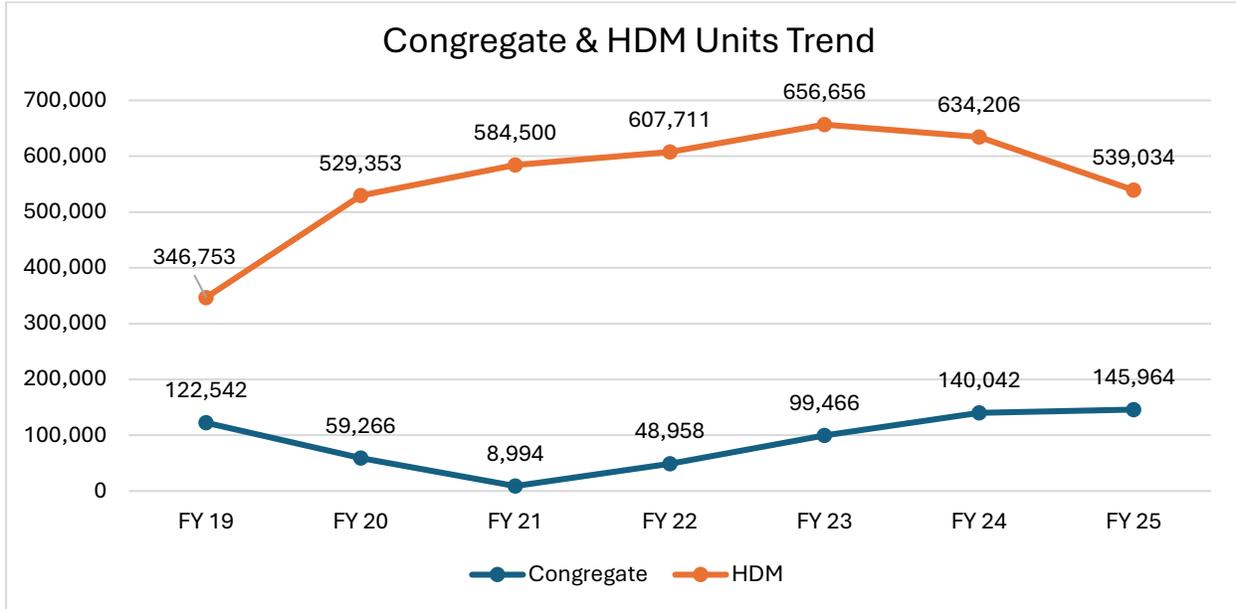
Home Delivered Meals

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a substantial increase in demand for home-delivered meals, and this trend has continued over time. AgeSmart also offers special diet options through Mom's Meals. Older adults with special dietary needs, such as those requiring renal-friendly, pureed, gluten-free, and diabetes-friendly meals, are provided with nutritionally tailored menus. For older adults living in remote rural areas where home-delivered meal service is not currently available, Mom's Meals are offered as an alternative.

All home delivered meal consumers receive 10 shelf-stable meals. Shelf-stable meals serve as emergency meals when normal meal delivery is not feasible due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. During the pandemic, shelf-stable meals became increasingly important as a convenient, nutritious, and safe option for older adults to maintain a healthy diet during the crisis. AgeSmart provided a total of **18,365 shelf-stable meals in FY2025** and will continue to ensure homebound older adults will have access to adequate nutrition during emergency situations.

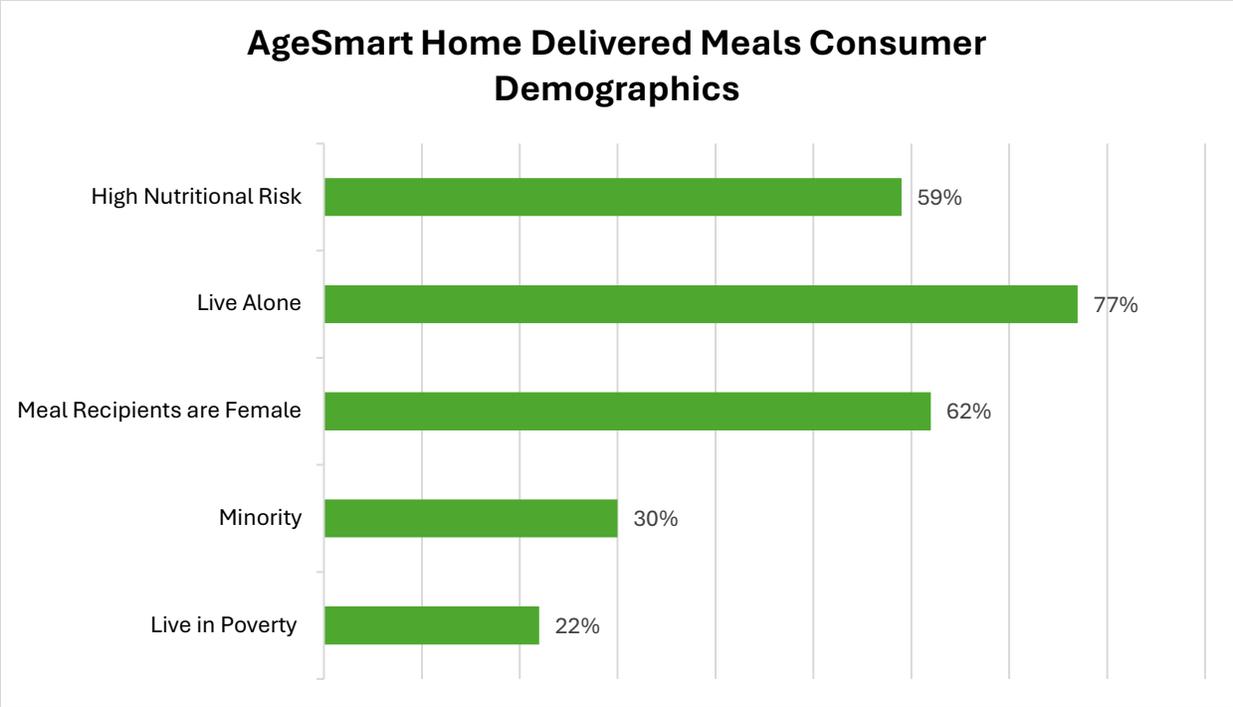
The demand for home delivered meals continues to increase year after year. The decrease indicated in the chart below is due to the discontinuation of the various COVID-19 funding sources that were available from FY2020-2024. These additional funds provided weekend-home delivered meals during this period which ended in FY2024. In FY2025, AgeSmart provided **539,034** home delivered meals to **3,952** older adults. This is an increase of 55% over 2019 – Pre-COVID-19. Nearly 80% of these participants live alone, and 22% are below the poverty level. Although there has been a steady increase in attendance at congregate dining programs since FY2022, the home delivered meals program remains a necessary and vital service for the entire PSA 8 region, especially for those in rural areas where there may be only one congregate meal provider for an entire county.

Congregate & Home Delivered Meals Units Trend



Every one of the nutrition service providers in the region continues to face ongoing challenges, including a shortage of staff and loss of volunteers or struggle to recruit new volunteers. Additionally, the costs associated with food, packaging, and delivery continue to increase exponentially. These rising expenses, combined with the shortage of volunteers, ensure that frozen meals continue to be the most affordable solution. Currently, 74% of PSA 8's home delivered meals are frozen.

To alleviate the feelings of isolation and loneliness among home-delivered meal participants, nutrition providers regularly conduct well-being checks over the phone. AgeSmart is closely monitoring the status of the region's home-delivered meal programs and remains committed to ensuring they meet the nutritional needs of older adults while contributing to their overall health and wellbeing. As of March 2026, there is no waitlist in PSA 8.



Other Funding Possibilities

While AgeSmart’s main sources of funding are the Federal Older Americans Act and Illinois General Revenue Funds, AgeSmart has made progress in securing grant funds from sources other than the Older Americans Act to enhance current programs and develop new programs.

Changes in Funding

For the purpose of this document, the FY2027 Governor’s proposed budget is used to estimate the funding level. When the actual funding allocation is received, AgeSmart will adjust in a way that causes the least disruption to services.

Funding Increase

Should the amount of Federal or State funding increase during the FY2027 funding cycle:

- AgeSmart's Board of Directors will determine the services and funding level based on the needs of the communities.
- Considering greatest needs, any increases in funding by a specific title may be used to expand/enhance existing services, to fund new pilot programs, and/or to offer innovative grants.

Funding Decrease

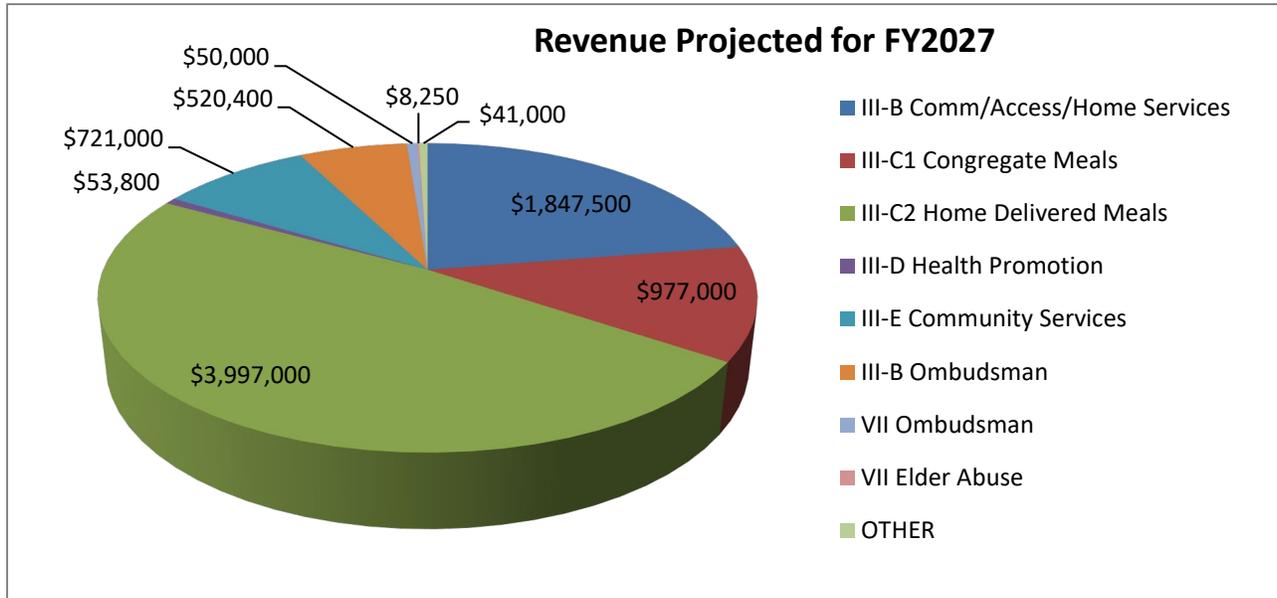
Should the amount of Federal or State funding decrease during the FY2027 funding cycle:

- Decreases will come from the effected title.
- AgeSmart will revise the service priorities and appropriately adjust the funding to the services so that reduction of the funding will cause the least amount of harm to the consumers.

The following pages demonstrate estimated revenues and expenses for FY2027.

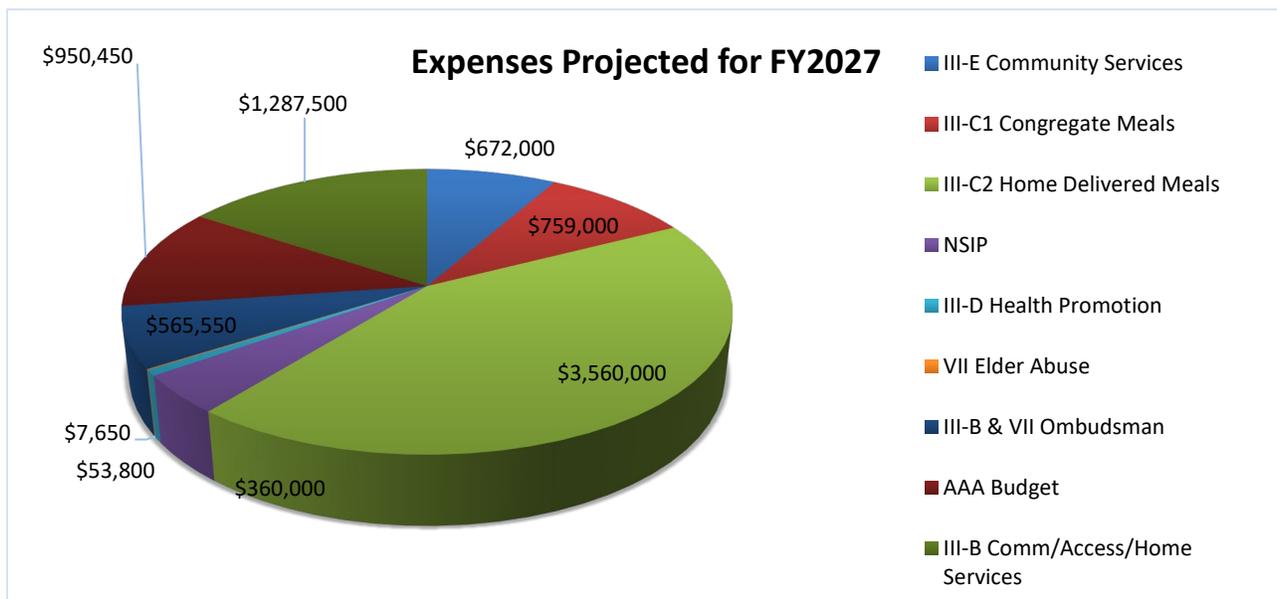
This projection is subject to change based on changes to funding levels if there is a sequestration or other budgetary impact from the Federal or State government.

FY2027 Projected Revenue and Expenses



Revenues Projected for FY2027

SOURCE	IIIB	IIIC-1	IIIC-2	IIID	IIIE	III-B OMB	VII OMB	VII ELD	OTHER	TOTAL
ALLOCATIONS	696,000	862,000	669,000	49,000	344,000	44,400	49,700	7,500	0	2,721,600
TRANSFERS	185,000	-50,000	-135,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STATE FUNDS	916,500	35,000	3,158,000	0	327,000	474,000	0	0	41,000	4,951,500
NSIP	0	80,000	280,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	360,000
CARRYOVER	50,000	50,000	25,000	4,800	50,000	2,000	300	750	0	182,850
TOTAL AVAILABLE	1,847,500	977,000	3,997,000	53,800	721,000	520,400	50,000	8,250	41,000	8,215,950



Expenses Projected for FY2027

APPLICATIONS	IIIB	IIIC-1	IIIC-2	IIID	IIIE	III-B OMB	VII OMB	VII ELD	OTHER	TOTAL
III-B Comm/Access/Home Services	1,287,500									1,287,500
III-E Community Services					672,000					672,000
Congregate Meals		759,000								759,000
Home Delivered Meals			3,560,000							3,560,000
NSIP		80,000	280,000							360,000
Health Programs				53,800						53,800
Ombudsman						520,400	45,150			565,550
Elderabuse								7,650	0	7,650
AAA Budget	560,000	138,000	157,000	0	49,000	0	4,850	600	41,000	950,450
	1,847,500	977,000	3,997,000	53,800	721,000	520,400	50,000	8,250	41,000	8,215,950

Title	Older Americans Act Programs
III-B	Transportation, Assisted Transportation, Information & Assistance, Options Counseling, Legal, Residential Repair & Renovation, Telephone Reassurance
III-C1	Congregate Meals
III-C2	Home Delivered Meals & Nutrition Education Counseling
III-D	Health Promotion Programs
III-E	Caregivers & Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Services – Information & Assistance, Public Education, Legal, Counseling, Support Groups, Respite, Gap Filling and ADRD Education
III-B OMB	Ombudsman
VII OMB	Ombudsman
VII ELD	Adult Protective Services

Appendix

FY2027 AgeSmart Service Area Coverage

Title III-B Supportive Services	Bond	Clinton	Madison	Monroe	Randolph	St. Clair	Washington
Information & Assistance OC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Assisted Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Assistance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Telephone Reassurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Residential Repair & Renovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Title III-C Nutrition Services	Bond	Clinton	Madison	Monroe	Randolph	St. Clair	Washington
Congregate Meals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Home Delivered Meals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Nutrition Education Counseling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Title III-D Health Promotion Services	Bond	Clinton	Madison	Monroe	Randolph	St. Clair	Washington
Evidence-Based Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Title III-E Family Caregiver	Bond	Clinton	Madison	Monroe	Randolph	St. Clair	Washington
Public Education Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Information & Assistance Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Counseling Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Support Groups Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
ADRD EB Education Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Respite Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Gap Filling Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Legal Assistance Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Legal Assistance OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
ADRD Supportive Gap Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Case Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Older Relatives Raising Grandchildren Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						